

## **SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

### **2007-2008 Term**

**Senator Jeff Mullis, 53<sup>rd</sup>, Chairman**  
212 English Avenue  
Chickamauga, GA 30707

**Senator Steve Thompson, 33<sup>rd</sup>**  
1170 Longwood Drive  
Marietta, GA 30008

**Senator Jim Whitehead, 24<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman**  
4715 Silverlake Drive  
Evans, GA 30809

**Senator Chip Pearson, 51<sup>st</sup>, Secretary**  
P.O. Box 209  
Dawsonville, GA 30534

**Senator Jeff Chapman, 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
P.O. Box 3119  
Brunswick, GA 31521

**Senator John Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>**  
295 Nicklaus Circle  
Social Circle, GA 30025

**Senator Greg Goggans, 7<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio**  
1300 Hampton Road  
Douglas, GA 31533

**Senator Judson Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>, Ex-Officio**  
3102 Raines Court  
Marietta, GA 30062

**Senator Kasim Reed, 35<sup>th</sup>**  
1755 Loch Lomond Trail  
Atlanta, GA 30331

**Senator Valencia Seay, 34<sup>th</sup>**  
P.O. Box 960008  
Riverdale, GA 30274

**Senator Cecil Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>**  
P.O. Box 26427  
Macon, GA 31221

**Senator Doug Stoner, 6<sup>th</sup>**  
P.O. Box 1781  
Smyrna, GA 30081

# **SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RULES**

## **2007-2008 Term**

- (1) All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Senate Rule 1-5.1.
- (2) The quorum for the Transportation Committee shall be six (6) members.
- (3) A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or legislator whom he or she designates to do so. In the event that more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.
- (4) The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon order of the Chairman.
- (5) The Chairman shall determine which bills, amendments, and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which measures are considered.
- (6) The Chairman shall have sole authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Such subcommittees, in turn, shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee. All actions of any subcommittee shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
- (7) These Rules may be amended or waived upon motion made and subsequently approved by a majority of the members of the Committee.
- (8) The Secretary of the Committee will have a copy of these rules distributed to all members of the Senate.
- (9) The recording of the minutes of the Committee and the Subcommittee shall comply with Senate Rule 2-1.7(d).
- (10) The Rules of the Senate shall prevail in all matters not covered by Committee Rules.
- (11) Bills and resolutions, at the option of the Chairman, may be acted on at the first reading.
- (12) The Senate Transportation Committee has adopted rules for road naming/dedication Ch. 3, Pg. 7, Rule (3-4.01).

## **Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee**

**January 23, 2007**

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on January 23, 2007 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Members present included Senators Whitehead of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Chapman of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Douglas of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>, Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Thompson of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

Chairman Mullis welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2007 legislative session. The adoption of the Committee Rules was the first order of business. The Chairman noted that the quorum has been adjusted to six.

Senator Thompson moved that the Committee adopt the Rules, and with a second from Senator Whitehead, the motion carried unanimously.

### **SB 19 (Whitehead, 24<sup>th</sup>) *Transportation, Department of***

Senator Whitehead presented the bill. This legislation provides authority to the Department of Transportation to order the removal, relocation, or adjustment of utility facilities occupying any part of the public road system. It provides that a utility that fails to remove, relocate, or adjust a facility in a timely manner will be responsible to the Department and its contractors for failure to comply.

The Chairman asked Buddy Gratton, Deputy Director of the Department of Transportation if there was any opposition to the bill. He stated that BellSouth had voiced some concern, but otherwise there was no opposition.

**NOTE: Senator Reed arrived at 4:18 p.m.**

Senator Thompson moved that the Committee **Do Pass SB 19**, and with a second from Senator Staton, the motion carried unanimously.

**SB 19 DO PASS**

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The Chairman introduced Harold Linnenkohl, Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. He told the Committee to let him know if there are any transportation needs.

The Chairman introduced Buddy Gratton, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, who then presented the committee with an overview of what the department does.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Mullis 53<sup>rd</sup>, Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

## **Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee**

**January 31, 2007**

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on January 31, 2007 in the Senate Mezzanine of the Capitol. Vice-Chairman Whitehead called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m. Members present included Senators Whitehead of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Pearson of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Chapman of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Douglas of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio, Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>, Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Thompson of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

**NOTE: Chairman Mullis and Senator Goggans arrived at 2:45 p.m. Senator Thompson left at 2:45 p.m.**

The Chairman asked Buddy Gratton, Deputy Director of the Department of Transportation to come up. Mr. Gratton gave a presentation about what it takes to maintain the level of expectations people have of GDOT.

Senator Douglas had a question regarding Newton County and why the DOT was cutting all the trees at Exits 90, 92, and 94. The response was that it was for safety and is called a clear zone.

**NOTE: Senators Seay, Staton, and Stoner left at 3:00 p.m.**

The Chairman asked if there were any additional questions. Senator Whitehead discussed the wildflower program and our state highways. Volunteer groups and the Garden Club have been a lot of help.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Chip Pearson 51<sup>st</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

## **Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee**

**February 7, 2007**

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on February 7, 2007 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. Members present included Senators Whitehead of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Chapman of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hill of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, and Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **SB 87 (Pearson, 51<sup>st</sup>) *RV Friendly Markers***

Senator Whitehead presented the bill. This legislation directs the Department of Transportation to seek approval from the Federal Highway Administration to incorporate the use of "RV friendly" markers on specific service signs for business establishments that cater to the needs of persons driving recreational vehicles.

The Chairman stated that this would help enhance travel and increase visitors in the State of Georgia. He asked Deputy Commissioner Buddy Gratton of the DOT if there were any objections, and there were none.

Senator Judson Hill moved that the Committee **Do Pass SB 87**, and with a second from Senator Whitehead, the motion carried unanimously.

### **SB 87 DO PASS**

The Chairman invited Jane Hayse of the Atlanta Regional Commission to give a presentation on the congestion in Atlanta.

**NOTE: Senator Staton arrived at 2:52 p.m. and Senator Seay left at 2:56 p.m.**

Senator Judson Hill spoke about the telecommuting legislation passed last year. Senator Stoner stated that two million people were added to the region so he hopes telecommuting happens. However, we need to have the infrastructure. Ms. Hayse pointed out that many people will be elderly. Senator Whitehead mentioned a "truck only" highway to divert traffic around Atlanta. Ms. Hayse responded that there is a freight mobility project underway.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Mullis 53<sup>rd</sup>, Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

## **Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee**

**February 22, 2007**

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on February 22, 2007 in the Senate Mezzanine of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Members present included Senators Whitehead of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Pearson of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Douglas of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>, Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Thompson of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

### **SR 104 (Tolleson, 20<sup>th</sup>) *Eddie Wiggins Bridge***

Senator Tolleson presented the resolution. This resolution dedicates the Russell Parkway bridge over SR 247 in Houston County as the Eddie Wiggins Bridge. The Chairman asked if SR 63 and SR 104 could be combined, but Senator Tolleson wanted his resolution to be separate. Senator Stoner moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 104**, and with a second from Senator Staton, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 104 DO PASS**

### **SR 63 (Hooks, 14<sup>th</sup>) *L.M. Moye, Jr. Memorial Bridge***

Senator Hooks presented the resolution. This resolution dedicates the bridge over Pataula Creek on US 27 in Stewart County as the L.M. Moye, Jr. Memorial Bridge. Senator Stoner moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 63**, and with a second from Senator Staton, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 63 DO PASS**

### **SR 154 (Mullis 53<sup>rd</sup>) *Joint Human Services Transportation Study Commission***

Tom Bauer of the Georgia Transit Association presented the resolution. The Joint Human Services Transportation Study Commission proposes to address a concern regarding the efficiency of the current application of programs which provide transportation services to the public as they relate to health and social service transportation. A substitute was presented to have the Atlanta Regional Commission and the GA Transit Association to be a part of the groups appointed to participate.



Senator Stoner moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 154 by Substitute**, and with a second from Senator Douglas, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 154 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**SR 136** (Thompson, 33<sup>rd</sup>) **Emmett Henry Austin Memorial Bridge**

Senator Thompson presented the resolution. This resolution dedicates the Emmett Henry Austin Memorial Bridge in Senator Thompson's district. There had been uncertainty over which bridge they could dedicate. Senator Thompson and GDOT assured Chairman Mullis the matter had been resolved and a Substitute was presented.

Senator Whitehead moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 136 by Substitute**, and with a second from Senator Pearson, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 136 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

The Chairman invited Todd Long of GDOT to present his Fast Forward Transportation Program Update. Senator Pearson inquired about asphalt plants and consolidation. There were no more questions.

**SR 263** (Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>) **Commuter Rail; Athens to Atlanta**

Chairman Mullis presented the resolution. This resolution urges the members of Congress to help ensure that funding for the Athens to Atlanta Commuter Rail Line is appropriated in the 110th Congress. Senator Pearson asked about future State obligations, in terms of state budget dollars, if this train becomes a reality. The Chairman's response was that this resolution is only urges Congress to fund capital expenditures. Rapid transit is never fully funded and usually has to be subsidized by the State if we want to help with congestion problems.

Senator Reed moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 263**, and with a second from Senator Stoner, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 263 DO PASS**

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Chip Pearson 51<sup>st</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

## **Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee**

**March 1, 2007**

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on February 22, 2007 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 2:55 p.m. Members present included Senators Whitehead of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Pearson of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Chapman of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Douglas of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, and Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **HB 192 (Smith, 129<sup>th</sup>) *Transportation, Department of; contracts***

Representative Smith presented the bill. Chairman Mullis will be the Senate sponsor. This bill increases the dollar amounts relating to GDOT power to execute a negotiated contract and bonds posted by successful bidders. The current limit is \$50,000.00; this bill increases the limit to \$100,000.00. Senator Pearson asked if this pertained to all purchases. The response from Buddy Gratton of GDOT was that it pertains to construction only.

Senator Whitehead moved that the Committee **Do Pass HB 192**, and with a second from Senator Douglas, the motion carried unanimously.

**HB 192 DO PASS**

### **HB 231 (Smith, 129<sup>th</sup>) *Public roads; liable for gross negligence***

Rep. Smith presented the bill. Chairman Mullis will be the Senate sponsor. This bill addresses maintenance and use of public roads generally relating to the authority of GDOT, counties, and municipalities to regulate parked vehicles or leaving vehicles unattended on the right-of-way of a public road of the state highway system.

Senator Douglas discussed the possibility that with this bill towing companies will be less careful with property. John Keys from GRTA and Gary Millsaps, a Highway Emergency Response Officer, spoke in support of the bill.

Senator Whitehead moved that the Committee **Do Pass HB 231**, with a second from Senator Pearson. The vote was **5 Yeas** and **1 Nay** by Douglas 17<sup>th</sup>.

**HB 231 DO PASS**

**SR 301** (Brown, 26<sup>th</sup>) **Phil Walden Memorial Interchange**

Senator Brown presented the resolution. This resolution dedicates the interchange at I-16 and SR 41 at the Otis Redding Bridge as the Phil Walden Memorial Interchange.

Senator Staton moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 301**, and with a second from Senator Douglas, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 301 DO PASS**

**NOTE: Senator Seay arrived at 3:13 p.m.**

**SR 296** (Goggans, 7<sup>th</sup>) **POW Julian Abel Memorial Bridge**

Senator Whitehead presented the resolution. This resolution dedicates the Hardy Creek Bridge on US 82, in Berrien County, as the POW Julian Abel Memorial Bridge.

**SR 297** (Goggans, 7<sup>th</sup>) **PFC Elwood W. Odom Memorial Bridge**

Senator Whitehead presented the resolution. This resolution dedicates the Five Mile Creek Bridge on SR 168, in Berrien County, as the PFC Elwood W. Odom Memorial Bridge.

**SR 298** (Goggans, 7<sup>th</sup>) **MIA/KIA Bryant H. Roberts, SFC Memorial Bridge**

Senator Whitehead presented the resolution. This resolution dedicates the Ten Mile Creek Bridge on SR 168 near Nashville in Berrien County as the MIA/KIA Bryant H. Roberts, SFC Memorial Bridge.

**SR 299** (Goggans, 7<sup>th</sup>) **POW Fred L. Belcher Memorial Bridge**

Senator Whitehead presented the resolution. This resolution dedicates the Withlacoochee River Bridge on SR 76 west of Nashville, in Berrien County, as the POW Fred L. Belcher Memorial Bridge.

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**SR 404** (Hill, 4<sup>th</sup>) **John Paul Ellis Highway**

Chairman Mullis presented the resolution. This resolution dedicates the portion of US 80/SR 26 from Portal to Hopeulikit, in Bulloch County, to be dedicated as the John Paul Ellis Highway.

Chairman Mullis moved that a Substitute to SR 296 be created to combine resolutions SR 296, SR 297, SR 298, SR 299, SR 404, and add the language “This resolution dedicates the section of Clairmont Road between Buford Highway and Century Plaza Parkway in DeKalb County as the Bill Lowery Parkway.”

Senator Douglas moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 296 by Substitute**, and with a second from Senator Whitehead, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 296 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**NOTE: Senator Chapman left at 3:17 p.m.**

**SB 282** (Mullis, 53<sup>rd</sup>) **Highway System; alternative tourism routes**

Chairman Mullis presented the bill. This bill provides for the creation of alternative tourism routes that are a part of the state highway system that traverse the state and pass through or in close proximity to historic sites or tourist attractions in the state.

Senator Seay moved that the Committee **Do Pass SB 282**, and with a second from Senator Staton, the motion carried unanimously.

**SB 282 DO PASS**

**SR 365** (Mullis, 53<sup>rd</sup>) **Transportation Funding; joint committee**

Chairman Mullis presented the resolution. This resolution creates the Joint Study Committee on Transportation Funding to be composed of six members who will study the issues to determine alternative funding mechanisms for transportation projects and special funding sources.

Senator Staton moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 365**, and with a second from Senator Douglas, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 365 DO PASS**

**SB 290** (Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>) **Georgia Aviation Authority Act; create**

Senator Pearson presented the bill. This bill creates the Georgia Aviation Authority. This Authority will acquire, operate, maintain, house, and dispose of all state aviation assets. Chairman Mullis stated that this is the Governor's bill and is part of his effort to streamline government. Buddy Gratton, Deputy Commissioner with GDOT spoke in support of the bill.

Senator Whitehead moved that the Committee **Do Pass SB 290**, and with a second from Senator Seay, the motion carried unanimously.

**SB 290 DO PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Chip Pearson 51<sup>st</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

## **Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee**

**March 14, 2007**

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on March 14, 2007 in the Senate Mezzanine of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Members present included Senators Whitehead of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Pearson of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Chapman of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Douglas of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio, Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, and Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **SR 357 (Whitehead, 24<sup>th</sup>) *Major Byron S. McGuire, Sr. Memorial Bridge***

Senator Whitehead presented the resolution. This resolution dedicates the bridge on SR 104 at Keg Creek, in Columbia County, as the Major Byron S. McGuire, Sr. Memorial Bridge.

Senator Seay moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 357**, and with a second from Senator Goggans, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 357 DO PASS**

### **HB 202 (Harbin, 118<sup>th</sup>) *contractors; eligibility; provisions***

Senator Whitehead presented the bill and will be the Senate sponsor. A contractor that is found to be more than 25 percent behind in the performance of any combination of two or more of the following: State public works construction contracts; or Department of Transportation construction or maintenance contracts based on a final determination that such delay was due to the fault of the contractor, will not be eligible to bid on any additional state public works construction contracts or Department of Transportation construction or maintenance contracts until such time as the performance of such contracts is brought current or completed. Steve Parks of the Georgia Highway Contractors Association spoke in favor of the bill.

Senator Douglas moved that the Committee **Do Pass HB 202**, and with a second from Senator Goggans, the motion carried unanimously.

**HB 202 DO PASS**

**SR 229** (Meyer von Bremen, 12<sup>th</sup>) **Paul Keenan Parkway**

Senator Meyer von Bremen and Chairman Mullis presented a Substitute to the resolution. As presented, this resolution dedicates the portion of SR 3 from the Mitchell/Dougherty county line (Mile Post 0) north to the Dougherty/Lee county line (Mile Post 15.08), in Dougherty County, as the Paul Keenan Parkway; the intersection of SR 1 and Cloud Springs Road as the James H. Chandler, Jr. Memorial Intersection; the portion of SR 341 from its intersection with SR 193 north to its intersection with Gordon Street in Chickamauga as the Federal Army of the Cumberland Highway; and the portion of SR 1 from its intersection with SR 48 in Summerville north through LaFayette on US Highway 27/SR 1 north through Shields Cross Road, US Highway 27/SR 1, to the intersection of Old LaFayette Road and Frank Gleason Highway as the CSA Army of Tennessee Highway.

**NOTE: Senator Whitehead left at 4:09 p.m.**

Senator Chapman moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 229 by Substitute**, and with a second from Senator Staton, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 229 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**SB 284** (Mullis, 53<sup>rd</sup>) **Vehicle Weight/Load**

Chairman Mullis presented the bill. This legislation amends current law by allowing the driver of a vehicle to bring the vehicle into compliance with Georgia law by shifting or equalizing the load on all wheels or axles. If the driver brings the vehicle into compliance when requested by the proper authority, the driver will not be operating in violation of State law.

Senator Chapman moved that the Committee **Do Pass SB 284**, and with a second from Senator Goggans, the motion carried unanimously.

**SB 284 DO PASS**



**SR 365** (Mullis, 53<sup>rd</sup>) **Transportation Funding; joint committee**

Chairman Mullis presented an amendment to the resolution. This resolution as amended creates the Joint Study Committee on Transportation Funding to be composed of eight members who will study the issues to determine alternative funding mechanisms for transportation projects and special funding sources.

Senator Douglas moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 365 As Amended**, and with a second from Senator Stoner, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 365 DO PASS AS AMENDED**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Chip Pearson 51<sup>st</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

## **Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee**

**March 19, 2007**

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on March 19, 2007 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Members present included Senators Whitehead of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Pearson of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Chapman of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Douglas of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio, Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>, Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Thompson of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

### **SB 256 (Mullis, 53<sup>rd</sup>) *Outdoor Advertising Signs; height limitations***

Chairman Mullis presented the bill. This legislation amends current law by providing certain height limitations on outdoor advertising signs; providing conditions for lowering of existing signs; providing changes in the size of trees permitted to be trimmed or removed from viewing zones of signs; and providing changes to the extent of viewing zones. Scott Peters, attorney, spoke on behalf of the billboard industry in favor of the bill in its original form. There was discussion about Section III of the original bill which addressed the cost to local governments. Senator Douglas offered a Substitute. The substitute eliminated Section III entirely from the bill. In support of the bill Substitute were Virgil Moon of Cobb County, Todd Edwards of ACCG, Vance Stephens of Gwinnett County, Tom Gehl of GMA, and Mayor Mickey Thompson of Douglasville. In opposition of the bill were Mary Lovings of the Garden Club of Georgia and Neil Herring of the Sierra Club of Georgia.

Senator Douglas moved that the Committee **Do Pass SB 256 by Substitute**, and was seconded by Senator Stoner. The votes were **5 Yeas and 3 Nays** by Chapman 3<sup>rd</sup>, Reed 35<sup>th</sup>, and Thompson 33<sup>rd</sup>.

### **SB 256 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Chip Pearson 51<sup>st</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the  
Senate Transportation Committee**

**March 29, 2007**

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on March 29, 2007 in the Senate Mezzanine of the Capitol. Vice- Chairman Whitehead called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Members present included Senators Whitehead of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Pearson of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Douglas of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio, Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>, Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, and Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**SR 428** (Mullis, 53<sup>rd</sup>) ***Senate Railroad Safety & Security Study Committee***

Senator Staton presented the resolution. This resolution creates the Senate Railroad Safety and Security Study Committee to be composed of five members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. Danny Boyles of United Transit Union, Craig Camuso of CSX, and Joel Harrall of Norfolk Southern spoke in support of the bill.

**NOTE: Chairman Mullis arrived at 1:18 p.m.**

Senator Reed moved that the Committee **Do Pass SR 428**, and with a second from Senator Seay, the motion carried unanimously.

**SR 428 DO PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Chip Pearson 51<sup>st</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

## **Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee**

**April 10, 2007**

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on April 10, 2007 in the Senate Mezzanine of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Members present included Senators Whitehead of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Chapman of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Douglas of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio, Hill of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ex-Officio, Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>, Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, and Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Chairman introduced Yvonne Williams of the Perimeter CID group, who presented the committee with a short presentation.

### **HB 389 (Lewis, 15<sup>th</sup>) *Public transportation; limousine carrier***

Representative Lewis presented the bill. Senator Reed will be the Senate sponsor. This legislation amends provisions relating to the definitions of “motor common carrier” and “limousine carriers.” It defines a limousine carrier as any person operating a prearranged service regularly rendered to the public by furnishing transportation as a motor common carrier for hire, not over fixed routes, by means of one or more of the following: unmetered limousines, extended limousines, sedans, extended sedans, sport utility vehicles, extended sport utility vehicles, other vehicles with a capacity for transporting more than 10 persons for hire, and any combination of these types of vehicles.

Senator Whitehead asked about the Amendment which changed the number of passengers from 15 (in the original bill) to 10, and what affect it has on companies that have larger vehicles that can carry up to 16 people. John Tucker of the Georgia Public Service Commission, who requested the Amendment, explained those larger vehicles are still allowed but are under a different classification. Les Schnider of the GA Limousine Association also spoke in support of the bill as Amended.

Senator Reed moved that the Committee **Do Pass HB 389 As Amended**, and with a second from Senator Seay, the motion carried unanimously.

**HB 389 DO PASS AS AMENDED**

**HB 536 (Floyd, 147<sup>th</sup>) *Vehicles and loads; fines for excess weight***

Representative Floyd presented the bill. Senator Williams will be the Senate sponsor. This legislation adds language which states that the five percent variance may be judged per single axle, tandem axle, or maximum total gross weight. Current law does not specify language when defining the criteria for defining the five percent variance relating to the determination of a violation. An amendment was offered to change language dealing with fines.

Senator Douglas asked a series of questions regarding the weight and enforcement of the law. The Georgia Department of Transportation spoke in support of the bill.

Senator Whitehead moved that the Committee **Do Pass HB 536 As Amended**, and with a second from Senator Reed, the motion carried unanimously.

**HB 536 DO PASS AS AMENDED**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Mullis 53<sup>rd</sup>, Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

## **Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee**

**April 13, 2007**

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on April 13, 2007 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Members present included Senators Whitehead of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Pearson of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Hill of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ex-Officio, Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>, and Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **HR 171 (Smith, 129<sup>th</sup>) *Callaway Conservation Highway***

Chairman Mullis presented a Substitute for the resolution to include numerous road dedications. This resolution designates and/or dedicates:

- the portion of SR 116 West between SR 219 and Hamilton, in Harris County, as the Cason and Virginia Callaway Conservation Highway (Smith, 129<sup>th</sup>, HR 171);
- the portion of SR 16 from its intersection with Bankhead Highway north to the Haralson County line, in Carroll County, as the Veterans Memorial Highway (Seabaugh, 28<sup>th</sup>, SR 453);
- the portion of SR 16 from the city limits of Mt. Zion to Mr. Perkin's house at 2994 Mt. Zion Road, between Bowdon and Carrollton, as the C.C. Perkins Memorial Highway (Hamrick, 30<sup>th</sup>, SR 454);
- the bridge, by which SR 2 crosses over the Conasauga River at Beaverdale, as the Clint H. Bryant Memorial Bridge (Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, SR 486);
- the interchange of Georgia Highway 8 and Midland Avenue in Barrow County as the Walter E. "Eddie" Elder Interchange (England, 108<sup>th</sup>, HR 14);
- the interchange located at the intersection of Memorial Drive and I-285 in DeKalb County as the Tom Scott Interchange (Benefield, 85<sup>th</sup>, HR 212);
- the intersection of SR 255 and SR 197 in Habersham County as the Edgar Stamey Memorial Interchange (Bridges, 10<sup>th</sup>, HR 242);
- State Route 26 (U.S. 80) from the eastern city limits of Brooklet to the eastern city limits of Statesboro as the Dr. Charles Emory Bohler Highway (Lane, 158<sup>th</sup>, HR 146);

- State Route 26 (U.S. 80) from its intersection with U.S. 25 in the community of Hopeulikit to the eastern city limits of Statesboro as the Erk Russell Highway (Lane, 158<sup>th</sup>, HR 147);
- the GA 400 corridor as the Hospitality Highway (Anderson, 9<sup>th</sup>, HR 195);
- the portion of SR 37 within the city limits of Funston, Georgia, in Colquitt County, as the Edward Sidney "Dick" Chambers Memorial Highway (Royal, 171<sup>st</sup>, HR 321);
- the intersection of SR 515 and Philadelphia Road in Pickens County as the SGT David Samuel Collins Memorial Interchange (Graves, 12<sup>th</sup>, HR 88);
- the portion of SR 20 from the North McDonough city limit to East Lake Road, in Henry County, as the Ed Echols Memorial Highway (Davis, 109<sup>th</sup>, HR 130);
- the intersection of Hartley Bridge Road and I-75 in Bibb County as the Sgt. Kelley L. Courtney Interchange (Peake, 137<sup>th</sup>, HR 349);
- the portion of SR 42 from the City of Forsyth to the entrance to Indian Springs State Park, in Butts and Monroe counties, be dedicated as the Billy Lancaster Memorial Highway (Cole, 125<sup>th</sup>, HR 423);
- the bridge on SR 221 between the city limits of Douglas and SR 206, be dedicated as the SFC Nathan B. Simmons and SSGT James Q. Simmons Memorial Bridge (Sims, 169<sup>th</sup>, HR 414); and
- the portion of SR 45 Alternate in Calhoun County from the intersection of SR 45, SR 62, SR 216, and Cedar Street to the junction of SR 45 Alternate with SR 45, be designated as the Charles and Mary Cowart Bypass (Greene, 149<sup>th</sup>, HR 469).

Senator Pearson moved that the Committee **Do Pass HR 171 by Substitute**, and with a second from Senator Whitehead, the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Mullis will be the Senate sponsor.

**HR 171 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**HR 201** (Lane, 167<sup>th</sup>) **Georgia's High Tech Corridor**

Chairman Mullis presented the resolution. Senator Tolleson will be the Senate sponsor. This resolution designates and/or dedicates:

**PART I**

- The portion of US 341 from the corporate limits of the City of Perry to the corporate limits of the City of Brunswick will no longer be designated as Georgia's High Tech Corridor;
- The portion of US Highway 441 from the corporate limits of the City of Dublin to the point at which it connects with U.S. Highway 341 will be designated as Georgia's High Tech Corridor;

**PART II**

- The portion of the state highway system beginning at the intersection of I-16 and US 23 and continuing to the intersection of US 23 and US 341 will continue to be dedicated as the Golden Isles Highway; and
- US 341 from its intersection with US 23 to the City of Brunswick will be dedicated the Golden Isles Parkway. US 341 from its intersection with US 23 to the City of Brunswick will no longer be dedicated as the Golden Isles Highway.

Senator Staton asked if Senator Tolleson was OK with this as it is in his district. Chairman Mullis called Senator Tolleson and he was OK with it.

Senator Judson Hill moved that the Committee **Do Pass HR 201**, and with a second from Senator Seay, the motion carried unanimously.

**HR 201 DO PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Chip Pearson 51<sup>st</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary



July 2, 2007

Honorable Bob Ewing  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Room 353  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Ewing:

Along with the minutes of the **Senate Transportation Committee**, I am returning the following Bills and Resolutions:

SB 233	HR 14
SR 297	HR 146
SR 298	HR 147
SR 299	HR 195
SR 341	HR 321
SR 404	HR 423
SR 453	HR 531
SR 454	
SR 486	

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Debra Charnote  
Recording Secretary  
Senate Transportation Committee